

Ground Broken on Major Water Improvement Project in the Town of Dublin (July 7, 2006)

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN RICK BOUCHER

Town of Dublin Water Improvement Project

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Dublin, Virginia

July 5, 2006

I am pleased to return to the Town of Dublin today to break ground for a project which will improve the Town's water system and provide better public water service to 2800 households, businesses and schools. Today's groundbreaking marks another significant success in our ongoing work to expand and improve Southwest Virginia's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Currently, the Town's water system provides drinking water to the 6500 residents of Dublin, but it is in serious need of repair. The lines are small, aging, and there are frequent leaks and line breaks with a consequent loss of large volumes of water. As a result, many Dublin residents have been experiencing low water pressure. I began working with the Town's leadership several years ago to obtain federal funding to remedy this problem.

Today our shared efforts have produced results, and we are now beginning construction on a \$4 million water system improvement project. The total cost of this project is being provided through federal funding .

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Agency, at my urging, has provided a total of \$3,156,000. Of that amount, \$750,000 has been provided as a grant, and \$2,406,000 has been provided as a low interest federal loan. Also at my request, a \$811,000 federal appropriation was approved by Congress and is being provided through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's State and Tribal Assistance Grant program.

One of my primary goals in representing Southwest Virginia is to work with our local governments to obtain federal funding for our regions's water and wastewater facilities. The construction of this infrastructure is an essential step in our efforts to encourage economic development throughout our region and to improve the quality of life for Southwest Virginians.

The improved water system for which we break ground today will serve the 2800 households and businesses in the Town of Dublin as well as Dublin Elementary School and Dublin Middle School. Fire protection for the Town will also be

improved with the installation of new fire hydrants.

To complete the project, approximately 8 miles of 8, 10, and 12 inch waterlines will be installed to replace the smaller lines currently used by the Town. These new, larger lines will increase the volume of water transferred by the system, which will provide residents with greater water pressure and more reliable water service. That improved service will enable the town to accommodate growth in the number of residents and businesses and will assist the Town's long range economic development efforts.

Additionally, 99 fire hydrants will be installed. Many of these will replace the Town's current aging fire hydrants, and several new hydrants will be installed in areas currently without hydrants. The new hydrants will provide better fire protection to Dublin residents.

Work on these improvements is expected to be completed in May 2007.

There are several individuals who deserve our thanks today for the efforts they have made on behalf of this project.

I would like to commend Mayor Benny Skeens and members of the Dublin Town Council, along with Town Manager Bill Parker, for their leadership in working to establish reliable water service for the Town.

I would also like to thank Ellen Davis, State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Agency ,and Travis Jackson, Rural Development Area Director, for their strong support of this project.

Additionally, I would like to recognize Bill Aden with Draper Aden and Associates Engineering for lending his expertise to this project. My former District Director, Linda DiYorio spent many hours urging the provision of federal funding for the project, and I want to acknowledge her work.

The project for which we break ground today is an example of what can be achieved when citizens and government officials at the local and federal levels work together and cooperate in aid of a common purpose. For that cooperation and successful work in providing a more reliable drinking water system for the Town of Dublin, I want to commend all here and offer special congratulations to the residents and business owners who will be receiving improved service.

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